

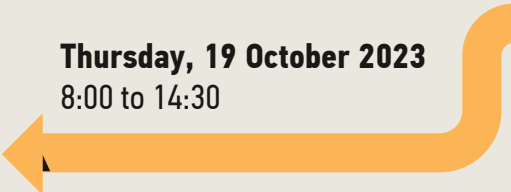


Hybrid Conference

Enhancing Career Readiness and Transition Competencies



Thursday, 19 October 2023
8:00 to 14:30



UNESCO Amphitheatre
University of Nicosia



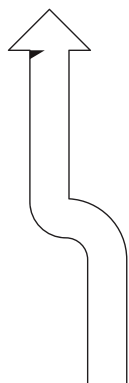
Or via:
Zoom



Organisers:



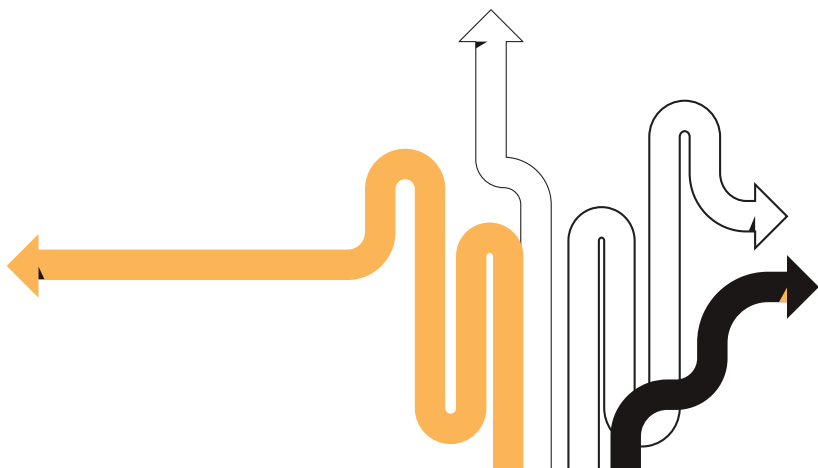
Co-funded by the
European Union



The long-term economic crisis combined with the COVID-19 pandemic has led internationally to sharply rising unemployment, especially among young people (OECD, 2020), who face increased occupational uncertainty and become particularly vulnerable to looking for, finding and keeping a job (Mann, Denis and Percy, 2020). In addition, rapidly evolving changes due to the digital and “green” transition seem to create even greater challenges for career decision-making and planning. This issue is linked to limited access to career guidance and information services, which leads to stereotypical choices, distant from real conditions and trends in the labour market, and a low understanding of available educational and professional opportunities and career paths (Mann et al, 2020).

OECD, during the last couple of years, studies in depth the issue of career readiness of young people and the available national data, determining correlation indicators of participation in career counselling activities and services with improved employment outcomes, with the aim of mobilizing counsellors and competent agencies to provide better services for the benefit of young people (Covacevich et al., 2021a . Covacevich et al., 2021b).

At the Conference, international distinguished speakers will highlight the current concerns, challenges and opportunities aimed at bridging the gap between education and employment through a contemporary perspective and the need for timely development of professional readiness and lifelong career management skills in young people, for a new human capital with professional readiness.



PROGRAMME

8:30-9:00	Welcome – registration
9:00-9:15	Opening speeches
9:15-9:45	Dr Maria Siopacha , Director, UNIC Career Success Centre <i>Freshmen students' career readiness and the UNIC approach</i>
9:45-10:30	Fotini Vlachaki , Careers & Social Inclusion Expert - Researcher MSc, PhDc, Greece <i>Career-Ready? Career readiness competencies in the globalised labour market</i>
10:30-11:00	Katerina Flaka , Psychotherapist/life coaching /career counsellor MSs Psychotherapy <i>Mental Resilience for Professional Readiness</i>
11:00-11:30	Break (Light Lunch break)
11:30-12:15	Anthony Mann , Senior Policy Analyst (Education and Skills) – OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (France) <i>What works in career guidance? Insights from new international longitudinal evidence</i>
12. 15– 12.45	Discussion
12.45– 13.30	Dr Mika Launikari , Career Guidance and Knowledge Development Expert at Laurea University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki, Finland <i>CREAR - Career, Resilience, Education, Agency and Readiness digital tool enabling career transitions</i>
13.30 – 14.00	Cynthia Harrison , Cedefop CareersNet coordinator, lifelong guidance project expert and Ernesto Villalba , Expert Department of VET and Skills, Cedefop <i>Systems and policies supporting adults' career readiness</i>
14.00 – 14.30	Q and As End of the conference

SPEAKERS



Maria Siopacha

Director, Career Success
Centre, UNIC
BSc, MSc, PhD

Maria Siopacha (Director, Career Success Centre, UNIC): BSc studies in Mathematics, MSc and PhD in Financial Mathematics. She studied in Greece (where she comes from), UK and Vienna, Austria. She started her banking career in Athens, before she was promoted and joined the Treasury Department. After working for a German bank in Market Risk Management, she joined for four years the Raiffeisen Bank International in Vienna, where she was developing the Internal Market Risk Model. After that, she joined the UBS AG headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland, in 2011, as a Director and spent a couple of years in model development of statistical economic capital models. She was promoted to Head Model Confirmation & Governance within the statistical risk aggregation methodology team becoming responsible for confirming the output figures of the Pillar 2 economic capital models and monitoring that model performance and model output is fit-for-purpose so that the statistical models can be used for risk measurement/equity attribution/risk appetite framework. From January 2018 to June 2018 she was appointed as the Local Supervisor of the Risk Methodology team in Krakow, Poland. In July 2019 she joined the University of Nicosia as the Director of the Career Success Centre.



Fotini Vlachaki

MSc, PhDc, Greece

Careers and Social Inclusion Expert – Researcher and Adult Trainer MSc, PhDc, Greece
Fotini Vlachaki has studied Philosophy, Pedagogics and Psychology with a specialty in Psychology in the University of Athens, Greece. She holds a postgraduate Master's Diploma in "Counseling and Vocational Guidance" and she is a PhD candidate in the Department of Psychology of the University of Athens. She has long experience in career practitioners' training as well as the development of career guidance services and tools targeted to students, young people and adults. She has been the Director of Career Guidance at the National Center for Vocational Orientation (EKEP) and at the National Organization for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance (EOPPEP) in Greece. She is a Cedefop CareersNet expert for Greece and she has been involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of scientific and educational actions to upgrade the services provided in the field of Counseling and Career Guidance in Greece. Currently she works in the field of social and labour market inclusion of vulnerable groups at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and recently at the newly established Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family. She is involved in many research projects focusing on lifelong professional development, modern career readiness skills and professional and social integration of vulnerable social groups.



Anthony Mann

Senior policy analyst,
Organisation for Economic
Co-operation and
Development

Anthony Mann is a senior policy analyst at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development where he leads work on how schools can best prepare young people for their transitions into work. The OECD Career Readiness project has drawn on international longitudinal datasets to identify career-related predictors of better adult employment outcomes: [oecd.org/education/career-readiness/](https://www.oecd.org/education/career-readiness/). He is currently working on how guidance systems can respond effectively to social inequalities, enable progression towards green jobs and make best use of digital technologies. Previously, he led the OECD's work on Vocational Education and Training and worked for many years at the UK Department for Education. On twitter, he is @AnthonyMannOECD.

SPEAKERS



Mr Mika Launikari

Ph.D. and M.Sc.Econ.
Career Guidance and
Knowledge Development
Expert at Laurea University
of Applied Sciences,
Helsinki, Finland

Mika Launikari (PhD and MSc Econ.) has been working in the field of career guidance and competence development since 1995. Currently he is employed at the Laurea University of Applied Sciences in Finland. There his duties include research, innovation and development in the areas of lifelong guidance and digital skills. During his professional career he has been involved in international cooperation in the fields of education, training and employment (policy, research, practice, professional development) with European Union institutions (European Commission, Cedefop, European Training Foundation, etc.) and European networks (Euroguidance, European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network, European Employment Services, Europass, etc.). For five years (2007-2012) he worked for the European Union agency Cedefop, where he was in charge of lifelong guidance and entrepreneurship learning, and in 2019 he worked in Brussels on the European Commission's new Europass online platform on lifelong learning and career development. In 2019, he successfully defended his doctoral dissertation entitled 'Homo interculturalis – Identity, interculturality and career learning within EU institutions' at the University of Helsinki (Faculty of Educational Sciences). See also www.launikari.eu



Cynthia M. Harrison

Project manager, network
coordinator, Cedefop

Cynthia is responsible for lifelong guidance project at Cedefop, part of a team of experts working in career guidance, validation of informal and non-formal learning, and financing VET and adult learning, within the VET support policy area, Department for VET and Skills at Cedefop – the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training. She coordinates CareersNet, Cedefop's network of independent experts in lifelong guidance and career development. Cynthia has also been engaged previously in research and project activities in social inclusion, civic competence, career aspirations and school leadership.



Ernesto Villalba

Expert Department of VET
and Skills, Cedefop

Ernesto Villalba is an expert at the European Center for the Development of Vocational Education and Training (Cedefop) since 2011. He is working in the area of career guidance and on validation of non-formal and informal learning. Before joining Cedefop he worked as a scientific officer at the Center for Research on Lifelong Learning (CRELL) at the Joint Research Center of the European Commission, contributing to the Education and Training Monitoring (former, progress report towards Lisbon objectives) and carrying research in the area of transversal skills and its measurement. Ernesto has served in different committees and working groups of the OECD, UNESCO and the European Commission. He holds a Ph.D. in International and Comparative Education from Stockholm University. He is in the editorial board the European Journal of Education.

SPEAKERS



Katerina Flaka

Psychotherapist/life
coaching /career counsellor
MSs Psychotherapy

Katerina Flaka is psychotherapist specialized in positive psychotherapy. She has been working for many years as career counselor for the unemployed and employed at national and European Level. She was the Head of National EURES Coordination Office of Greece for 10 years. She is certified as adult trainer in coaching, mental health and integration into labor market. She holds MSc in Positive Psychotherapy from UCLan in UK and MSc in Human Resource Management from Athens University of economics and business

